AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. - 6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended): A method for screening for an agent ~~for~~ which ~~promoting~~ promotes insulin production and/or an agent ~~for~~ that ~~increasing~~ increases insulin content, comprising:

bringing a cell transformed with an expression vector comprising a polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide and expressing the polypeptide, in which the polypeptide is selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

~~(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;~~ and

~~(d)~~ (c) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an ~~80%~~ 95% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

or a cell membrane thereof, into contact with a substance to be tested,

analyzing whether or not the polypeptide is activated, and

selecting the substance which activates the polypeptide so as to identify the agent ~~for promoting insulin production and/or the agent for increasing insulin content~~.

8. (withdrawn — previously presented): A process for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising:

bringing a cell expressing a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

or a cell membrane thereof into contact with a substance to be tested,

analyzing whether or not the polypeptide is activated, and

preparing a medicament containing the substance.

9. (withdrawn — currently amended): An agent for promoting insulin production and/or for increasing insulin content, comprising as an active ingredient a substance that activates a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation.

10. (withdrawn — previously presented): A method for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising administering to a subject a substance that activates a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO:2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation.

11-12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of confirming that the selected substance increases insulin production and/or insulin content.

14. (canceled):

15. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the polypeptides (a) and (b).

16. (canceled):

17. (previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the polypeptide is selected from the polypeptides (a) and (b).